Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
State Forest Resource Management Guide Public Comment Summary

## Owen-Putnam State Forest Compartment 8 Tract 9 Comment Review: 3/12/2018 Comments Received: 2

The table below is a summary of public comments received concerning the draft Resource Management Guide (DRMG). The public comments received have been reviewed in their entirety and given due consideration summarized in the Division of Forestry response below.

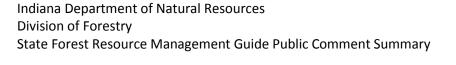
## **Comment Summary Division of Forestry Response** The comments received pertain primarily to the managed timber harvest Comment period clarification: The 30 public comment period for prescribed in the RMG. web posted Resource Management Guides begins the day of posting and runs for the following 30 days. Comment Summary: Compartment and Tract boundaries can be found at: Opposes the harvest prescription within the DRMG due to potential http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3635.htm The INdianaMap.org impacts to plants, animals, habitat, aesthetics, recreation and site contains a managed lands layer indicating property boundaries, ecological services. but not management units which are subject to periodic change. Questions need for a forest harvest and timber market conditions. Habitats, communities and species are considered as part of the Concern on water quality within the watershed, slope steepness management planning process. Along with field observations, and potential impacts to soil and water resources and the effective Natural heritage data has been reviewed to check for threatened or implementation of BMPs. endangered bird and wildlife species on or near the management Questions if logging trucks are required to observe legal road load unit. Detailed flora, fauna and landscape level habitat inventories limits. are beyond the scope of tract level management guides. Locations of RTE species are not disclosed for protective purposes. Further Concern on potential impacts regarding invasive species (multi flora rose and stiltgrass), Ash resiliency and spread of EAB. information on direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. Concern on potential presence of and impacts to RTE species, depth http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests EA.pdf of wildlife inventories and disclosure of RTE species identified on Snags and habitat (legacy) trees are considered at the tract and the tract. Encourages the retention of dead and dying trees for ecological compartment level. The prescribed management supports this habitat and structural diversity and abundance targets across the benefits. Would like more information on snag density projections before and after proposed management activities. landscape. Would like more detail about which areas will be treated with group Best management practices, including slope considerations, will be selection versus single tree selection. And, impact of deer browse implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion, sedimentation and water quality concerns. BMPs will be required on hardwood regeneration success. of operator and included in timber sales contracts. Karst features Question on sustainability of State Forest harvest levels. Would like were not noted in this tract. DoF will respond to reported BMP more information on future growth. Error observed in the forest

inventory table.

- Concern on carbon sequestration and how the proposed management affects rate of carbon sequestration.
- Concern on potential impacts to recreation opportunities as a result of the proposed management activities.
- Contends State Forests have requirement to demonstrate market need for timber, consider slope steepness, and conserve State Forests for future generations.
- Suggests DOF provide the exact deadline for public comments.
- Suggests compartment and tract shapefiles be available via INdianaMap.org

departures. BMP guidance can be found at: <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005">http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-2005</a> Forestry BMP Field Guide.pdf

- Road weight limits are enforced by State and local authorities.
- Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion board feet of timber. Managed harvest levels on State Forests are set at a level to insure long term sustainability. These levels are periodically reviewed as new inventory data is collected. Growth on this tract are expected to meet or exceed harvest levels over time. Timber markets remain positive at time of this review. See <a href="http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State Forest CFI Report 2010 2014.pdf">http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State Forest CFI Report 2010 2014.pdf</a>
- The inventory data in the draft RMG contained some typographical errors. These have been corrected in the final plan. This information did not alter the management recommendations, since the correct data was used in their development.
- Invasive species presence and control needs are incorporated in the management guide. The species noted are widespread in the County. A variety of management measures are considered in an overall integrated pest control strategy.
- EAB is now found in nearly all of Indiana's 92 counties and widespread across Indiana forests. State Forests are a relatively small part of the forest make up in Indiana. While the prescription will remove many infected Ash trees it will not slow the spread of EAB, nor remove all affected Ash. Remaining dead and dying Ash will provide temporary wildlife benefits. Prescribed regeneration opening will capture some ash seed and regeneration which will escape the initial wave of EAB. Recruiting Ash regeneration is an expected and desired outcome of group selection silviculture.
- Group selection silviculture is expected to be used on less than 10% of the tract, exclusive of the non-native pine areas. Regeneration is expected to include a broad mix of native hardwood species. Deer



herbivory does impact forest regeneration to some degree. However, with the active hunting and rapid, dense regrowth response found on State Forest lands regeneration of mixed hardwoods is expected to exceed to target level of 1,000 seedlings per acre.

- Aesthetics along public roadways are expected to be minimally impacted since the roadways are somewhat distant from the tract. The non-native pine component of the tract provides some aesthetic appeal, which will continue for some time as the stand converts to native hardwoods over the next 15+ years.
- Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.
- There are no recreation trails or facilities in the tract. Recreational use of this tract is primarily hunting and foraging. Those uses will continue, however access may be limited during management activity periods for safety.
- State Forest management is guided by science and implementation of sound silvicultural principles to insure long term forest health and sustainability. State Forest management also adheres to legal mandates and voluntary compliance to comprehensive forest certification standards.
- The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural principles, promotes habitat diversity and supported by inventory data and field assessments. The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.